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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 DODE-00 NSC-10

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P R 241812Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8802

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REVISED BELGIAN
OPENING STATEMENT

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

ANKARA FOR DELIVERY TO NATO DEPARTMENT, TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTRY

FROM US REP MBFR

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF REVISED BELGIAN
OPENING STATEMENT CIRCULATED IN NATO AD HOC GROUP ON
24 OCTOBER 1973.

BEGIN TEXT:

(INFORMAL TRANSLATION)
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1. THE WORK WHICH OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE UNDERTAKEN
AND WHICH BRINGS US TOGETHER TODAY IS IMPORTANT. IT
INVOLVES THE REDUCTION OF ENORMOUS MILITARY CAPABILITIES
SUCH AS THE WORLD HAVE NEVER KNOWN IN TIME OF PEACE AND
WHICH ARE MASSED AT THE DIVIDING LINE WHICH DISTINGUISHES
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS WHICH ARE DIFFERENT BUT WHICH ARE
DETERMINED TO LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY.

2. AS FAR AS MY COUNTRY IS CONCERNED, ANY PROGRESS
IN DETENTE IN EUROPE SHOULD GO HAND-IN-HAND WITH A
LIGHTENING OF THE MILITARY BURDEN. LIKEWISE MY GOVERNMENT
IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE OPENING OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS
WHICH BEAR ON THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES AND ARMAMENTS
AS WELL AS ON THE ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

3. THE OBJECTIVE WHICH WE PURSUE IS BOTH COMPLEX AND
DELICATE. WE ARE ADDRESSING OURSELVES, IN REALITY, TO
THE ARRANGEMENTS OF DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE WHICH HAVE
ASSURED THE SECURITY OF OUR CONTINENT FOR NEARLY THIRTY
YEARS. IN THE COURSE OF OUR WORK, WE MUST THEREFORE
PROTECT CONSTANTLY THE VITAL PRINCIPLE OF THE ABSOLUTE
NECESSITY NOT TO DIMINISH SECURITY IN ANY DEGREE. IN
ADVANCING THIS REQUIREMENT, WE ARE IN NO WAY LOOKING TO
COMPLICATE THE WORKING OUT OF FUTURE AGREEMENTS. TO THE
CONTRARY, WHAT WE WISH IS TO ASSURE THE VALUE AND SERIOUS-
NESS OF THEM. THE PRESENT LEVELS OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE
APPEARS EXCESSIVE IN RELATION TO THE CONDITIONS OF
CONFIDENCE AND STABILITY WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE
REIGN IN THAT REGION. WE OUGHT THEREFORE TO SEARCH FOR
A SECURITY IDENTICAL TO THAT WHICH WE NOW KNOW, IF NOT
STILL BETTER, BUT AT LOWER LEVELS OF FORCE.

4. IN PROCEEDING TOWARD THIS TASK, OUR FIRST PREOCCUPATION
WILL BE TO AGREE TO NOTHING WHICH COULD LEAD TO A MILITARY
DISADVANTAGE FOR ANYONE AMONG US. SINCE OUR MILITARY
FORCE STRUCTURES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A GREAT DIVERSITY WHICH
EMBRACES PARTICULARLY DIFFERENCE IN CONCEPT, DISPARITIES IN
FORCE AND EQUIPMENT, GEORGRAPHIC REALITIES, ETC., THIS CON-
CERN FOR A RECIPROCAL SECURITY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENT US
WITH SOME DIFFICULT PROBLEMS FOR WHICH WE HAVE THE
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RESPONSIBILITY TO RESOLVE.

5. IT IS PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF THIS COMPLEXITY OF
PROBLEMS THAT IT WOULD SEEM WISE TO US TO NOT CONSIDER
AT THE OUTSET ANY OVERLY AMBITIOUS MODIFICATIONS IN THE
FORCES PRESENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE. ANY INORDINATE REDUCTIONS
COULD ALLOW DESTABILIZING EFFECTS AND WOULD THUS RUN COUNTER
TO THE GOAL WHICH WE SEEK.

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6. THIS CONCERN TO CONSOLIDATE OUR SECURITY NOTWITH-
STANDING THE DESIRED DIMINUTION OF FORCES FACING ONE
ANOTHER, MAKES US THINK THAT, ALONG WITH AGREED
REDUCTIONS IN FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, IT WILL BE
APPROPRIATE TO ELABORATE SOME STABILIZING MEASURES AS
WELL AS APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS OF VERIFICATION AND OF
NON-CIRCUMVENTION OF OUR EVENTUAL AGREEMENTS.

7. I WISH FINALLY TO ADVANCE TWO REMARKS:
THE FIRST IS THAT IN THE EYES OF MY GOVERNMENT THE
INITIAL EFFORT OUGHT TO POINT OUT TO ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE GREAT POWERS. THESE POWERS PLAY A PREPONDERANT ROLE
IN THE MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY AS THEY DO IN THE
CONSOLIDATION OF DETENTE, AND IT IS THUS QUITE NATURAL THAT
THE RESPONSIBILITY WOULD FALL TO THE GREAT POWERS TO TAKE THE
FIRST STEPS AND THEREFORE TO SHOW THE WAY.

THE SECOND REMARK DEALS WITH THE TIES WHICH UNITE
MY COUNTRY WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AS MEMBERS OF A
COMMUNITY WELL ON THE WAY TO REALIZATION, WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE
ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL FINALITIES OF THE LATTER WHEN IT COMES
TO JUDGING THE MEASURES WHICH WILL BE PROPOSED TO US.

8. IT IS A WEIGHTY TASK WHICH ATTENDS OUR CONFERENCE.
BUT WE ARE INSPIRED BY THE POLITICAL WILL TO BRING IT ABOUT.
MY GOVERNMENT WISHES FULL SUCCESS TO OUR ENTERPRISE TO WHICH
IT PLANS TO MAKE AN ACTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

9. I WOULD LIKE, IN CLOSING, TO TAKE THIS OCCASION TO
EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE OF MY GOVERNMENT TO THE AUSTRIAN
AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR KIND SUPPORT.
END TEXT
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HUMES

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